

Honorable Committee members,

Connecticut already has some of the most restrictive laws concerning guns in the nation. By considering further burdens on law abiding gun owners there will be no effect on crime or access to guns by people with mental health issues. The focus of the Committee, in my opinion, should be on laws that will have a positive impact in reducing violence:

- HB-5269 AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL USE OF A FIREARM
- HB-5165 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON'S HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE OR BUSINESS
- HB-5561 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE STATE-WIDE FIREARMS TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE
- HB-5654 AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO FIREARMS BY A PERSON WHO POSES A RISK OF IMMINENT PERSONAL INJURY TO HIMSELF OR OTHERS
- HB-5656 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR A CRIME COMMITTED WITH A FIREARM
- On the federal level "THE FIX GUN CHECKS ACT OF 2013" would update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to make sure it includes drug abusers, the mentally ill, and others who are prohibited from owning a gun and the State of Connecticut should be required to submit this information to the FBI.

Since Connecticut is one of only six states that prevent a person from receiving outpatient treatment or face commitment unless there is a showing of imminent danger any restrictive changes to our gun laws should be tabled until the mental health situation is addressed. I would like to thank The Governor and legislature for taking the time to look at all the issues and not follow the reckless example of New York State in passing questionable if not unconstitutional legislation.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Simpson
23 Pine Tree Hill Road
Shelton, CT 06484